

Alcester Grammar School

# The Record

No. 165

Autumn 1998 - Summer 1999

The Alcester

Grammar School

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No. 165

1998-1999

Editor : Mr. K. A. Johnson

Cover Design : Mr T. Johnson

Typesetting and page make-up : Mr C. J. Johnson

## The Year of 1998/99 At AGS

The end of this year was celebrated by an exuberant reunion of "Absolute Beginners", the senior students' drama society. The year 1999 was the tenth anniversary of the foundation of this group as a semi-autonomous organisation, building on the already strong drama tradition of the school. Then as now, but in ever increasing numbers, they produced a stream of musicals, plays and revues, which have delighted parents, pupils and staff. In the best traditions of so much of the school, the society has been, in most ways, run by the students. It was a great joy to see over 100 students, past and present, assembled under the direction of Gwen Thomas - one of the earlier Absolute Beginners - performing with such panache!

I do not often like to make reference to examination results, but those achieved in the past year were again an improvement. The school's GCSE success has risen faster than the national trend yet again and, when measured against those of other similar schools, was also well above the national mean. At A/AS Level and in GNVQ (Advanced) our 1998 results were also above average. When using added-value measures as a yardstick, our Year 13 achievements have been statistically significantly better than the national, by a large margin, for the last two years.

During this year too, we have been engaged in an exercise which is new to many schools - target-setting for Years 10 and 12. Year 10 targets are a statutory responsibility, but we also felt that it would be useful for the Sixth Form. These days, schools are increasingly seeking objective evidence for their standards of performance and measures to indicate the achievement of goals.

Meanwhile we have, at last, occupied the last part of our 5/6 years of building, which were set out in our master plan in 1993. We have taken over three new sixth form classrooms and a lift for the disabled, both attached to the three storey block, extensions to the sixth form common-room, learning resource centre (aka Library) and staffroom. As a result, the quad is now a quad, graced by covered ways and remaining a green heart for the school. There is also a new Biology laboratory. Most departments are now suited and have rooms more suitable for the twenty-first century. During this year and next, we will be investing about £60,000 in ICT, as part of our drive to make computer facilities available to all.

You will read elsewhere of comings and goings of staff and students, but I would like to pay special tribute to the twenty-three years service of Peter Balaam, sometime Head of Maths, PSE, Assessment Co-ordinator, Assistant Head of Sixth Form and, of course, Maths teacher. He has given fine service to AGS and goes off into semi-retirement. He will be warmly remembered by many mathematicians and sixth form students for his wise counsel and excellent teaching. Sue Beesley leaves after 15 years of service. She was initially a Geography teacher then Head of Girls' Games, then Head of Geography and then became part-time to look after her family. She leaves to move to work closer to home. She has spent many, many hours with students on field trips and on the sports field (especially tennis) and will be greatly missed.

I am very pleased to record an unusual and happy event for Richard Dobell, our Head of Music and Financial Officer, who was ordained as a deacon in the Church of England, as a non-stipendiary minister. He will continue to work at school, but will, in due course, be able to hatch, match and despatch any member or ex-member of the school. He will represent the church in the school and may be seen from time to time in his dog collar! Although AGS is a state school with no religious affiliation, I am glad to have an ordained minister as part of the staff.

In September 1999 the school will have reached about 740 in number, before heading off towards 800 in 2001. I think that will be quite big enough!

*A. W. Shearn, August 1999*

## Staff News

By some inexplicable mistake, the following members of the staff who arrived in September 1997 were left out of *Record 164*: Dr Lorraine Campbell to teach Psychology; Navdeep Brar to teach Business Studies and Economics, David Toseland to teach PE (he previously taught at AGS during Mr Cowell's absence on secondment some years ago). John Martin came to teach Art and Design - he had also been here before, leaving in 1996; Patricia Wells came to teach Chemistry. All these were part-time teachers. Dawn Collis who had been teaching Psychology part-time, became a full-time teacher.

At the beginning of the year, we welcomed a number of new members of staff. Simon Coleman arrived to be Head of Maths, and Ian Young to be Head of

Business Studies and Economics. Bridget Anthony (History), Karen Webb (Geography) and Helena Tingle (English) joined us, together with part-time teachers Nicola Cordin (Music), Brenda Fogg (DT), Anthony Hunt (Physics) and Gillian Kershaw (Chemistry). George Allen was to be our DT Technician and Oliver Tupman our ICT Technician.

We congratulated Sue Beesley and Laure Redfern on the birth of their sons, Henry and Hugo respectively. Congratulations were also due to Dr Harrison who returned as Dr Carrie Wakerley following her marriage to Graham.

Shortly into the year we said goodbye to Derek Lockey (Caretaker) and Ann Crick (Administrative Assistant) who both retired to live on the Welsh coast, helping to run a caravan site there. They left with our very best wishes after long and reliable service to the school. Their positions were taken by Matt O'Rourke and Jane Kitchen to whom we extend a warm welcome.

At the end of the year we paid tribute to three long-serving members of staff. Peter Balaam took retirement after twenty-three years at AGS, having been Head of Maths, Head of PSE and Assistant Head of the Sixth Form. Sue Beesley left to look after her young family, having been Head of Girls' PE and Head of Geography during fifteen years at the school. Trish Berry had been with us for nine years as the sole teacher of RE in the lower school. All three will be missed. Navdeep Brar (Business Studies), Gillian Kershaw (Chemistry and Physics), and Lorraine Campbell (Psychology) also left, Navdeep to marry and move to London and Lorraine to take a place at the Educational Psychologist's course at Birmingham University. Lorraine Tognetti (Catering Supervisor) and John Clee (Site Maintenance Manager) also moved on to pastures new.

Following three years of part-time study, Richard Dobell was ordained as a Deacon in the Church of England. As a non-stipendiary minister, he will represent the church in the school and will assist in the parish of Alveston at the weekend. Congratulations!

## School Register 1998-99

### Welcome, September 1998

#### Year 7 : 7N

Amanda Attride, Stephen Badger, Lisa Duckett, Laura Elliott, Alice Emerson, Natasha Fairbairn, Gemma Hall, Lucy Hall, Catherine Hazell, Jennifer Howes, William Jones, Bilal Khan, Jacqueline Low, William Marshall, Stephen McDonald, Sophie Merrick, Penelope Mills, Ross Munro, Nicola Pardoe, Richard Roper, Kenneth Ross, Alice Rowe, Owen Ryder, Cara Savage, Ben Sims, Sophie Smith, Helen Weaver, Oliver Wilkes, Matthew Wilson

#### Year 7 : 7S

John Aburto, Caroline Appleby, Jennifer Ball, Jonathan Baty, Hannah Bladon, Charlotte Brisley, Natalie Burgess, Joseph Ciolkowski, Jenna Coakes, Emma Collum, Amy-Rose Deffley, Joseph Donaghue, Benjamin Falconer, James Harrison, Andrew Hemming, Amy Hicks, Lisa Hodson, Nicola Lloyd, Stuart Moulder, Josephine Neale, Stephen Nock, Sophie Plim, Sarah Potter, Annie Price, Kirsty Prochowski, Adam Shaw, David Shearn, Ruth Stevens, Mamawa Turay, Craig Weale, Benjamin Williams

#### Year 7 : 7W

Thomas Andrews, Debbie Apperley, Sorrel Bickley, Vanessa Blandy, Joseph Caithness, Florencia Gillanders, Sylvie Haffner, Kimberley Hannon, Jennifer Harmer, Joe Harrison, Christopher Hemming, Augustus Hully, Fabia Hully, Kirsty Johnson, Leon Kashap, Christopher Lawrence, Kimberley Lewis, Richard Martin, James Mensforth, Lucy Morris, Kerri Newman, Jennifer Pearce, Hayley Powers, Peter Robbins, William Senior, Eleanor Tyler, Gemma Tyler, Matthew Watts, Emily Wersocki, Sarah Woodhams

#### Year 8 : Martin Baxter, Josef Mirczuk

#### Year 9 : Charles Dalton-Moore

#### Year 10 : Antonia Collis, Katherine Hatton, Tamsin Kashap

**Year 12 : From Alcester High School** - Charlotte Archer, Sharne Barnfield, Clare Beesley, Katherine Bell, Stephanie Blake, Katy Buxton, Samantha Clements, Christopher Dean, Sally Dicken, Mark Ewins, Toni Faulkner, Sally Green, David Hunt, Joanne Keely, David Kershaw, Andrew Littler, Heather Nicol, Victoria Rath, Sabrina Sacco, Lucy Spanswick, Joanne Spencer, Emma Targett, Paul Thompson, Mike Thould, Rachel Walker, Laura Wilson; **From Arrow Vale High School** - Basit Munir, Joanna Tsang; **From The Bavarian International School** - Charlotte Spray; **From Bridley Moor High School** - Richard Thomas; **From Bromsgrove School** - Chukwuma Mosieri; **From Chipping Campden School** - Hannah Carter; **From Dodderhill school** - Julia Shaw; **From Egerton-Rothesay School** - Linda Breukelman; **From Greenhill School** - Michelle McManus, Paul McManus; **From Henley High School** - Alexander Handy, Andrew Lidsey, Kerris Morgan, Zoë Morgan, Rachel Mould, Victoria Pugh; **From Kineton High School** - Christopher Baker, Emily Besley, Beccy Hyatt, Rachel Mawbey, Nicholas Thompson; **From King Edward's Grammar School** - Gavrieli Gavriel, Richard Harris, Martin Joynes, Clive Neal, Christopher Purchase,

Christopher Spencer; **From Kingsley School** - Kate Stevens; **From Lycée Alcide Dusolier** - Delphine Planes; **From Myton School** - Katie Hurst, Mark Kerby; **From Nether Stowe High School** - Luke Marson; **From Old Swinford Hospital School** - Ian Clatworthy; **From Prince Henry's High School** - Catherine Ball; **From Shottery Grammar School for Girls** - Amanda-Jane Chapman, Joanne Darlington, Jessica Dean, Victoria Grogan; **From St Bees School** - Richard Smith; **From St Benedict's High School** - Hannah Baker, Guy Barlow, David Barrett, Sam Barugh, Thomas Bowld, Peter Capron, Claire Dawes, James Ebbon, Benjamin Evans, Amy Faulkes, Liam Flynn, Cressida Godding, Hannah Grinsted, Alexis Hafner, Andrew Harper, Martin Hill, Elaine Palmer, Benedict Peters, Richard Pozzi, Fiona Rymsza, Leisha Rymsza, Kate Saunders, Natasha Susnik, Mark Thompson, Christian Valentine, Arthur Wright; **From Stratford on Avon College** - Edward Anderson; **From Stratford High School** - Tom Baxter, Natasha Cauvin, Heather Davis, Deanne Dodds, Jade Jefferies, Katie MacDonald, Philippa Prankard; **From Studley High School** - Glenn Averiss, Samantha Clarke, Daniel Hale, Elizabeth Howell, Christopher Hussey, Paul Large, Sabrina Lerna, Lucy Marklew, Neil Shepherd, Thomas Skinner, Stuart Slade, David Stephenson, Emma Swords, Helen Williams; **From Warwick Boys' School** - Oliver Brant, Stephen Cumberland, Paul Daws, Alastair Dawson, Mark Dunster, David Hales, Christopher Hemming; **From Other Schools** - Justin Driver, Paul Jaggers, Peter Robbins

### **Farewell September 1998-July 1999**

Edward Anderson, James Baldwin, Oliver Brant, Anna Capaldi, Gary Courtman, Deanne Dodds, Georgina Hussey, Kelly Lowden, Christopher Mason, Christopher O'Donovan, Delphine Planes

### **Farewell 23rd July 1999**

13AC :

Lucy Buxton, Robert Dagger, Michelle Dallow, Thomas Edkins, Natalie Horsfield, Gary Joynes, Angelique Poland, Sian Sansum, Iain Slade, Matthew Smith, Philip Smith, Angharad Timms

13CAW :

Sadie Brown, Ian Cutler, Lynsey McFarlane, Stephen McLaren, Janine Mitchell, Rachel Pask, Iain Shadlock, James Turner

13DCB :

Jeniene Boots, Thomas Futers, Jason O'Korafor, Rico Pecho, Corrado Plotegher, Alan Powell, Emma Preston, Rupert Roden, Hannah Shrimpton, Rachel Sturdey

13DMC :

Thomas Benjamin, Joanna Bennett, Rhiannon Davies, Kay McNamee, Anne Miles, Vaishali Nathan, Thomas Radburn

13DS :

Mhairiangela Bottone, Jonathan Chiffins, Lisa Cronin, Helen Davey, William Green, Thomas Luxton, Katryna McIntosh, James Pearson, Sabrina Sacco, Samuel Shearn, Britt-Marie Steed, Rachael Stevens,

**13GRW :**

James Cooke, Simon Danes, Charlotte Dencer, James Goodman, Amy Hall, Tom Oldham, Caroline Rolfe, Elizabeth Wakeling,

**13HLT :**

Colin Buckle, Zoë Evans, Zowie Hay, Matthew Hodges, Richard Price, Roger Talbot, Peter Walford, Jeremy Whall

**13JMW :**

David Attwood, Angela Bashford, Joanne Gill, Jonathan Higgs, Joseph Houghton, Jeffrey Jones, Rebecca Kendry, Susannah Kenyon, Anna Pidgeon

**13KAJ :**

Joanna Bentley, Hannah Elwell, Emma Fahey, Sarah Insoll, Nicholas Mellor, Kelly Poole, Ewa Sozanska, Sean Tilley, Alexander Weatherall, Tia Wightman

**13MAC :**

Katy Carter, Frances Dance, Abigail Davies, Rebecca Murphy, David Newton, Katie Popplewell, Ciara Redman, Trudi Sutton, Kathryn Thompson, Samuel Wilkes, Abbey Wright

**13PAD :**

Lisa Daw, James Dyke, Elizabeth Harding, Nikola Lamburn, Helen Poulton, John Rose, Warren Soni, Gemma Stacey, James Thomson, Caroline Turner, Emily Villis,

**13PDB :**

Eleanor Appleby, Stephen Dunn, Kirsten Harris, Christopher McVeigh, Thomas Moffat, John Platt, Jonathan Roberts, Holly Rowlatt, Kate Saunders, Adrian Springer, Hayley Springer

## **Events and Happenings, 1998-99**

### **Autumn Term 1998**

The year began with 90 new pupils in Year 7 and 120 in Year 12. The learning Resource Centre's move into its impressive extension was almost complete (see the report elsewhere in The Record), and new investment into Communications Technology included, for the first time, a full-time ICT technician. Our building programme in various parts of the school was nearly complete.

Twenty-eight Year 10 pupils began their **Duke of Edinburgh** Bronze Award, assisted by Mrs Tingle and seven sixth formers. A course at Stratford Fire Station and a First Aid course were amongst the options available to them. Three expeditions also took place: a Bronze one to the Malverns, and Silver ones to the Howgill Fells. We remain grateful to retired teachers (and their spouses) who help out on expeditions. Three of the previous year's Year 13 students,

Dan Carrivick, Nicola Stubbs, and Mark Capron, completed their Gold Awards and awaited their visits to St James's Palace.

There were a number of **Sports** successes this term. Jeff Jones (Year 13) won the regional Under 18 fencing tournament and went forward to the national finals in Edinburgh. Jon Wells, James Wraight and Leon Lewis were selected for the South/Mid Warwickshire Under 16 Rugby team, and James Baty and James Richardson for the Under 15 team. For the girls, Sarah Potter, Annie Vater and Katie Hatton won their races in the Warwickshire Schools League race in September. The Under 14 Netball team won a tournament at Chipping Camden. Lynsey MacFarlane (Year 12), a county level netball player, helped in training the 1st netball team.

In **Drama**, Absolute Beginners began work on their production of *The Wizard of Oz* which was enjoyed by a mixed-age audience at the beginning of December. The Year 13 and 12 Theatre Studies groups made a number of theatre visits, and trips to see *The School For Scandal*, *The Crucible*, *The Winter's Tale* and *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* were available to other members of the school. The Year 13 Theatre Studies group presented two performances of *Our Country's Good*, giving a moving and admired performance of this challenging modern play. A new venture was the Junior Drama Club, run by Mrs Tingle, on Monday lunchtimes. This venture was so popular that people had to be turned away.

Year 13 **Business** students visited Land Rover in Solihull to see the new Freelander production line with its new technology. Discussion of export issues was followed by a visit to the Jungle Track. The Year 12 GNVQ group visited Cadbury World where they saw a presentation by the Marketing Controller of Gifts and Occasions (and received plenty of free chocolate!).

Kirsten Harris, Steven Barratt, Hannah Shrimpton, Stephen Dunn, Liz Wakeling and Alan Powell (all Year 13) organised the Wells House "Jeans for Genes" day and raised £373.20.

Year 12 **Geography** students explored Brindley Place and Castle Vale Housing Project on their first fieldwork visit.

In the Senior **Maths** Challenge, Jeff Jones and Chris Blood were awarded Gold Certificates. As this event coincided with Children in Need Day, students taking

part were sponsored and £477.31 was raised.

GCSE Food Technology and A Level Home Economics students enjoyed a trip to the Food Show. This included watching famous TV chefs at work, and consuming numerous free food samples.

### **Spring Term 1999**

Drama was, as ever, very much in evidence this term. The Year 12 Theatre Studies group presented an evening of drama, comprising self-devised pieces and extracts from Shakespeare. This was a valuable part of their growing theatrical experience, as were various visits to the professional theatre. Opportunities to visit the theatre were also provided for other members of the school; these included *Twelfth Night*, *Macbeth*, *Broken Glass* and *A Doll's House*. The Senior School production at the end of term was *Tom Jones*. A report appears elsewhere in this magazine. A new venture was the AGS Arts Evening. The Year 7 Drama Club, the Junior Choir and the Wind Band collaborated in a successful event which involved 90 students on and off stage.

Chris Hay (Year 9) was selected to take part in the International Scout Jamboree in Chile and Brazil over the Christmas and New Year period.

Music students took part in the Chamber Music Festival at Shottery in March, and the London Mozart Players worked with Year 10 on composing a symphony. The Composers' Forum was successful as always, and the PTA Talent Show replaced the Music Competition in March. Nicky Martin and Alex Gold (both Year 10) beat a team from The Abbey High School, Redditch, in a Music and General Knowledge quiz on radio station "The Bear". Several students played in the County Youth Orchestra (Kirsten Harris, Charlotte Joyce, Colette Haden, Katie Walter, Sam Shearn) or sang in the County Youth Chorale (Anna Perkins, Laura Walmsley, Becky Shearn).

A team of Year 10 pupils won the Alcester Rotary Public Speaking Competition in February. David White, Mandy Howe and Katie Hatton spoke eloquently in front of a panel of judges, and qualified to go through to the district semi-finals.

The Business Studies Department took a group of students to Barcelona in February, where they visited Honda Logistics, Freixenet Champagne Producers and the Nou Camp Stadium. Also a group of Year 13 students visited Manchester United plc in March. Two Young Enterprise groups, Sparkle and ID, took part in the Redditch Trade Fair, selling plenty of their products.

The French exchange with the College Auguste Mailloux in le Loroux-Bottereau took place, involving students from Year 8, 9, and 10. Visits included a trip to Futuroscope in Poitiers and the National Riding School in Saumur. The latter town was also the venue for the Work Experience trip. Twelve students from Year 12 spent a week working in various bars, shops, or offices as well as the new Saumur Hospital.

The **Learning Resource Centre** ran a competition to mark World Book Day, asking pupils to give suggestions for a time capsule to be buried for the Millennium.

This was a busy term of sport. The Under 15 Netball team were second in the Warwickshire tournament, losing out on top spot only on goal difference. Richard Wersocki, Ioan Rees and Andrew Lea played in a sponsored Golf tournament at the Vale Golf Club to raise money for the British Heart Foundation. Some Year 8 pupils appeared on television when they went to watch the Davis Cup at the National Indoor Arena. The Year 8 Rugby team lost an exciting final to KES in the South/Mid Warwickshire Cup.

The **Biology** Department saw their new greenhouse erected, thanks to the PTA and newspaper recycling.

The Intermediate **Maths** Challenge took place. Twenty-eight pupils won certificates: nine gold, eight silver and eleven bronze. Gemma Johnson (Year 11), Adam Bradley (Year 11) and Tom Harris (Year 10) all qualified for the Invitational Mathematical Challenge in April. Three Year 12 students went with Mr Coleman on a residential course at Southampton University. The course, "Mathematics Today", was a series of lectures, presentations and workshops aimed at students interested in taking a mathematics-related degree.

GCSE and A level Art students visited the Monet and Impressionist exhibitions in London

### **Summer Term 1999**

In **Sport**, a number of pupils from Years 7, 8 and 10 were chosen to represent South Warwickshire at the Warwickshire Youth Games. Ria Bentley (Year 10) was selected for the Under 16 Warwickshire Netball squad. The Under 13 Netball team won the Alcester Police Tournament at Studley High School. Will Belfield (Year 8) was selected for the South and Central Warwickshire Cricket team. Following the South Warwickshire Athletics Meeting,

Lisa Willoughby (Year 8), Fionnghuala Martin (Year 8), Jenny Tugman (Year 9), Becky Hyatt (Year 12), and Amy Collins (Year 10) were selected to represent South Warwickshire in Rugby. Becky Hyatt also achieved the feat of climbing all fifteen 3,000 foot Welsh mountains on the same day, starting at 3.45am and finishing at 9.00pm. Prize winners in the Nestlé tennis ladder competition were Phil Carrivick (Year 9), Michael Martin (Year 9), Chris Campbell (Year 8), Neil Claxton (Year 8), Ben Falconer (Year 7), Katie Walter (Year 8), Katy Gines (Year 8) and Jenny Benton-Evans (Year 8).

Mr Slater helped to lead the Salters Chemistry Camp for Year 10 students at Birmingham University. During the residential camp, students participate in practical work, investigations, site visits and career forums. Two AGS students, Alison Belfield and Toni Collis, were selected to attend this stimulating event.

Music remained popular this term. The Jazz Band played at the Forest of Arden Festival garden party, and a group of buskers raised money for Kosovo by playing at Sports Day. Lucy Tugwell (Year 12) and David Hunt both entered for the BBC Young Musician of the Year heats.

The Learning Resource Centre team in the Inter-Schools Book Quiz were victorious (see the full report elsewhere in *The Record*). *The Time Capsule Competition* was won by Alice Emmerson (Year 7) from a total entry of 88 pupils.

Nick Mellor achieved a Gold Award, and Stephen McLaren a Silver, in the British Physics Olympiad. The awards represent the top 50 and the top 150 out of over 800 students who enter.

Mrs Green took over the Lower School Production with rehearsals half completed when Mr Johnson produced his own drama by being suddenly taken into hospital! A fuller report of *The Silver Sword* will be found later in the magazine, as will more detail on Absolute Beginners' Tenth Anniversary activities.

Year 9 History students listened to Mr Paul Oppenheimer talking about his life as a Jew during the Second World War and his experience of Belsen. Year 10 spent a day at Gloucester Docks investigating the history of canals at the Waterways Museum.

## **Alcester Grammar's Second Book Quiz Triumph!**

Amazingly in November 1998, it was time for the year seven book quiz again and here was the information about registering the school! I sent off the form and soon received a list of the six books to be read. I decided that this year, we would try a "knock out" eliminator quiz in the Learning Resource Centre to select a team. In the previous years, the English teachers had asked for volunteers and between us we had decided on a team. This had left a number of disappointed children, so instead I asked for volunteers in a full school assembly, to come the following day at lunchtime to take part in a selection quiz round for the Inter Schools Book Quiz.

Seventeen avid readers arrived the following day, chattering excitedly, and most of these did very well on the quiz I had already designed. When the papers were marked, two girls tied for fourth place on the team, so I wrote another round to get our final player. We then kept our fifth member as reserve. All were girls and all five read all the books on the list.

All the girls made many visits to the Learning Resource Centre to "swap" books, answer questions on the books and the general literature questions. In the later stages they asked daily if they had got to the final! They were all thrilled when they did, but were worried to find that the final was happening on the first evening of the school exam week. Letters and maps were sent home with invitations to the girls and their parents to attend the Quiz Night at Manor Hall. Our reserve Elly came with her family and watched the other team members from the audience.

All the girls had another look at the books after we received the news that we were in the final, but were all very nervous on the evening itself. I announced the Quiz Night in a morning staff briefing and three members of the English Department including the Head of English, came along, together with myself and Heather Bratt from the Learning Resource Centre.

The evening itself was great fun and the proceedings were enlivened by the poet Tony Mitton, reading some of his own work. We had a break at "half time" and after a hard fought nail biting final, our school won! The team was delighted, and after a phone-call, some of us headed for the pub after the girls had received their book prizes. They all popped into the Learning Resource centre the next morning

(in between exams) to say how pleased they were and how they had enjoyed the competition.

I would like to give a big thank you to the Schools Library Service who had the unenviable task of organising the competition, and to the five girls who took our school to victory :- Emma Collum, Lucy Hall, Natasha Fairbairn, Kirsty Johnson and the reserve, Elly Tyler.

*Rosy Bennington*

### **The Year 10 GCSE HEFT visit to Alpha Flight Services**

The year 10 food technology group visited the Alpha Flight Services at Birmingham airport. After our arrival we were supplied with stylish hair nets and joyous plastic coats. We then started our tour of the food factory.

We saw the large freezers where food was stored and it was amazing to think that people work in these conditions all day! We then saw them preparing airline meals for the next day and we were surprised to find the variety of different meals each flight company supplies and the very detailed specification they work to. The visit gave us an interesting insight into some of the same industrial practices we need to know about for our Food Technology course.

*Jayne Green and Becky Edwards, Y10*

### **'A' Level Home Economics Study Lectures**

On Tuesday 2nd November 1998 a group of A Level students visited the Sovereign lectures in Birmingham. There were four guest speakers speaking for 1 hour each. The topics were Current Issues on Nutrition and Health, Hazard Analysis - food safety systems, Product Development : consumer vs Technology and Comparative Product Evaluation.

The overall favourite lecture was by Karen Martin, Product Development Officer at Tesco. She covered issues with specific reference to Tesco and healthy eating products. We also discussed the changing consumer and attitudes to health with modern technology.

The day was very informative, educational and interesting. We are all looking forward to returning in 1999.

*Emma Wells, Y12*

## **L'échange Français** *(the French Exchange)*

The French Exchange was quite a success, despite all the illnesses that affected many of the group. For the first part of the exchange we went to France. We set off after school on Friday 12th March to catch the ferry which we almost missed due to the heavy traffic. The next day, after we left the ferry, we caught a coach to the French school to meet our partners. Everyone was a little bit nervous about this. The first weekend we spent with the French families, going to various places. Several people went to Nantes. On the Monday we went to the French school. We had to get up early as French schools start at 08.15! The lessons aren't much different, except that everything is spoken in French and they have to go to school on a Saturday. Lessons were all morning, then in the afternoon we went to the *Biscuiterie Nantaise*, (the BN factory).

During the week we had another session of lessons, all in French, and went on many trips such as the horse riding school in *Saumur, Guerande* where we had a questionnaire to fill in, and a seriously cheap hypermarket. On the Wednesday we went to *Futuroscope*, the biggest French theme park. We could also take our partners as they have Wednesdays off school in France. On the Sunday we had to leave early to catch the ferry. We took the day crossing, arriving back in Alcester at 22.30, then it was back to school on Monday!

Two months later, the French students made their return visit. Like us, they went on many trips and attended the lessons. Several people took their partners to Drayton Manor and many to visit Birmingham. Their trips included Madame Tussaud's, London, Shakespeare's Birthplace and Holy Trinity Church in Stratford. They really enjoyed themselves here, as we did there. One mentioned that the sports shops were cheaper here than at home. They didn't seem however to like fried breakfasts or our bus systems!

*Alastair Stewart, Y8*

## *Absolutely Decadent*

Christmas 1997: like most good ideas (which turn out to be not such good ideas in the cold light of day), the Absolute Beginners Reunion was first conceived in a pub - the Dog and Partridge, in fact. "What about doing a show next summer to celebrate the tenth anniversary?" somebody asked. "Yeah, great!" I said "Whoever organises that will be one hell of a mug." I thought.....

July 1998: After a few telephone calls, the Absolute Beginners Reunion Committee is formed and convenes its first meeting at Jan Green's house. Much tea is imbibed (by all), many cigarettes are smoked (by Janet and myself) and artistic sensibilities run high (particularly those of the thespian contingent). The meeting is chaired by Imy Wade who inspires all with her effective management skills, and the men with her leather trousers. A surprising amount is achieved and all agree that Janet's pineapple cake is second to none.

September 1998: Somehow addresses are found for past members of the society and all 600 of them are sent a mail-shot inviting them to a reunion the following July. Surprisingly over 150 people reply. Maybe this thing might actually happen after all. I gamely volunteer to "sort out the music" under the misguided impression that I might get some course credit at college for my efforts.

May 1998: The final (full) committee meeting. Everything is surprisingly on schedule. The programme is as final as it will be before the weekend itself (when it inevitably changes beyond all recognition), the T-shirts have been ordered, and I even find myself with a thirty-piece orchestra. "Shame they haven't got anything to play yet," I think to myself. "Don't worry, all the music is under control," I say.

1st July 1999: I'm on the phone to David Last at 2.00 am (again...) discussing the music. "I've produced a comedy spreadsheet of what's left to be done," he says. "Don't worry it'll all be fine," I say, "anyway, how's the brochure coming along?" "Don't worry it'll all be fine," he says. I'm not sure who is fooling whom at this point.

11th July 1999: Directors' meeting at Janet's. Over a very fine Sunday lunch the programme is tweaked and blocked out. "Shouldn't we work out how long this show is going to be?" I say. It comes out at over three and a half hours. Back to the drawing board then....

18th July 1999 10.30 pm: The final bars of *One Day More* draw to an earth-shattering close. Somehow it all came together . I'd like to say that it was all due to meticulous planning and all eventualities were planned for. But no, this was after all, an Alcester Grammar School production. Nonetheless over £100,000-worth of lighting and video equipment was transported from London and Petersfield and *worked*, the aforementioned thirty-piece orchestra had some music to play (and they were talking to the conductor afterwards....), nearly all the cast learnt the words to the Liberty Beat medley ("What's the bit about black horses again?" somebody asked. "Don't ask me, " I said, "I just play the stuff."), and the Nelson did a roaring trade. So what have I learnt?

- If you try *really* hard, you can get Janet organised (it's all a big charade really, honest...)
- "Never do today what you can put off 'till tomorrow," however is a much more inviting prospect. Resist it for all you're worth.
- Music is *not* the food of love. It just makes your life a living hell for months, them makes you feel good for about two and a half hours. Rather like love after all then...
- Delegation works....sometimes
- Never look at the viola players. It only encourages them.

*Gwen Thomas (Class of '92)*

## **Mathematics Course - Southampton Uni. April 1999**

This course was based in Southampton University, over three days, with accommodation provided in the halls of residence. The short trip gave us a chance to sample the life of a university student.

It was a bit scary at first, having been one of the first to arrive, and finding out there were to be over 130 students taking part, none of whom we knew. However, I managed to become great friends with another group, and together we enjoyed all aspects of the University. The halls were great, lectures were interesting, and the nightlife in town was brilliant.

The experience was definitely worthwhile, and I'm glad to have taken part in the course. Southampton definitely gave us a positive attitude to our future as students.

*Siu-Mai Chan Y12*

### **Business Studies Trip to Barcelona**

The sixth form Business Studies trip this year was to the Spanish city of Barcelona. On Tuesday 4th February, 50 members of years 12 and 13, including staff and their families left Heathrow for Spain. The trip involved both gathering Business Studies knowledge and experiencing the culture of a recently modified city.

The visits included: the FREIXENT Champagne producers, the HONDA logistics centre for Iberia (distribution), the BOLSA Stock Exchange, the NOU CAMP Football Stadium and a five star Hotel.

At the forefront of the culture of Barcelona was the remarkable GAUDI architecture which would be found all over the city, but which is made famous by the magnificent and unfinished cathedral "SAGCADA FAMILIA". We stayed in an "interesting" hotel - beautiful internal architecture and decor although, being built around an ornate stoneclad atrium, the merest opening of a door anywhere could be heard everywhere!

The Hotel was situated on "LA RAMBLAS" the pulsating thoroughfare through the middle of Barcelona which was thronged with people day and night. It was also near the Stade d'Olympic where a number of us watched Espanyol play Real Majorca (soccer).

The trip was both worthwhile and *very* enjoyable for all present, a great success.

*Alex Haffner, Y12*

### **Year 12 Dorset Geography Trip**

It was the first time that the school had visited Dorset for a geography field trip and the one thing we knew for certain was that there would be a lot of hard work over the five days.

After four hours' travelling we finally arrived at our first study point - Corfe

Castle village. Some were confused by this and were under the impression that we had come here to study the actual castle but after the study sheets were handed out all became clear. In the few hours we had here we had to describe the site and settlement of this quaint little village and then investigate its main features. This took all of half an hour as it was plain to see that the main features were tea rooms and tourist shops and the castle of course. This left us some free time to have a wander round the parks and to examine the local sweet shops!

On our tired arrival at the field centre we were introduced to our guide, Steve, then shown around the building with the relaxed rules being pointed out on the way. We were then introduced to our neighbours for the week, a flock of black crows whose aim at times was quite remarkable!

As the week went on it became more and more difficult to get out of bed at seven-thirty but the temperamental showers had an awakening effect. The Weymouth study fulfilled its earlier promise from the previous briefings as we saw how the many sea defences such as sea walls protected the coastline from further erosion. The study of tourism in Weymouth was again quite enjoyable as we could study at first hand the dominating features such as the amusement arcades, pleasure pier and the many chip shops! There was one strange phenomenon in Weymouth though and that was how, within half an hour of leaving the teachers and being split up into groups, every student from Alcester Grammar had managed to end up in MacDonalds!

The Wednesday was a split day with one half of us in Swanage and the other at Studland Bay, swapping at lunch. Swanage was a small town where we had to do such things as pedestrian and traffic counts to identify the CBD. Studland Bay was a study of the formation of the sand dunes and we also had a talk about the management of the area because it has many problems with the number of tourists using it every year. A lot of measurements and readings were taken on the sand dunes with many weird and wonderful instruments. Our guide for the day was very enthusiastic in explaining how the dunes formed and as part of this we had to jump along the beach like sand particles!

Our last full day was spent doing a study of two rivers using even more strange equipment but it was not until we were actually in the rivers, paddling around in our wellies, that the rain decided to fall. This made it all the more fun but also all the more freezing cold.

To finish this day off we had a tour of the Swanbrook river catchment area, and what most of us thought was going to be a short stroll around the area, ended up being a three (that felt more like thirty) mile trek ending up at the sea. We got back to the centre just in time for tea and were told the bad news - we would have to get up the next morning at seven o'clock.

The trip back to the school involved a stop off at Lulworth Cove where we had a good view of the coastal landform. We stocked up on food and souvenirs then slept for nearly all the journey home. It had been a tiring week and the effects of all the hard work could be seen that night at the Rag Ball with so many of us too exhausted to move!

*Paul Bradley, Y12*

### **First XV Autumn/Spring Terms '98-'99**

**Results:** v Kenilworth(A), lost 47-0; v North Leamington(H), won 22-15; v KES(A), lost 44-0; v Prince Henry's(H), lost 46-0; v KES Five Ways(A), lost 65-5; v Kenilworth(H), lost 61-0; v Bridley Moor(H), won 15-3; v Warwick(A), lost 26-12; v Lawrence Sherriff, lost 33-7; v Princethorpe College, lost 14-0; v KES(A), lost 64-14; v Bridley Moor, won 41-0. **Summary:** played 12, won 3, drew 0, lost 9, for 116, against 418.

Overall, despite the team's playing record, the season was a very enjoyable one. There was an excellent team spirit throughout, reflected in the way that everyone kept going to the "death" in every match, often when the result (a defeat) was a foregone conclusion within the first fifteen minutes. I have lasting memories of bodies littered all over the field, exhausted behind the try line, having given everything. What more can one ask?

As ever it is difficult to find opposition at the right level. Most of our opponents are schools where rugby is the only sport played and most of the teams have been together for six or seven years. Our team was a mix of players from many schools until they met in Year 12 and 13, some quite experienced, some having previously played only a handful of games. The improvement of some players in such a short period of time was remarkable, although there is still room for more.

There was a disappointment in some games (Warwick, Princethorpe) which we felt were there to be won, only to slip away as tiredness crept in. We also suffered

from injuries to a couple of key players in games that might have turned on their being available. On reflection the playing highlight of the season had to be our first half performance against Lawrence Sheriff. We led 7-0 at half-time against a quality team but were unable to sustain the pace of the game in the second half. Our main problem all season was our inability to retain possession of the ball after the tackle (rucking) and in this game, following a coaching session by two professional players, the team really performed well.

The final game of the season against Bridley Moor was also very satisfying, proving that we were able to attack and score tries when we could dominate the second phase possession. It was a delight to see the team in full flow, creating space, penetrating the opposition defence when most of the season had been spent in "back to the wall" defence against much stronger teams.

I remain optimistic about next season - the majority of the team was from Year 12 and will therefore be the nucleus of next year's side.

D.T

### **Canoe Trip - St David's**

This year's canoe trip was long awaited by us all because the year before it was cancelled owing to difficulty with transport. This made Mr Cowell the more determined that it was going to take place this summer, no matter what!

We had been told that St David's was the smallest city in Britain before leaving and when we arrived we realised that it only consisted of a newsagents, a chemist, a pub and a chippy. It was not going to be a trip full of late nights out partying, although the chippy was used extremely frequently!

The camp site was a simple affair of a field and a shower block next to the sea cliffs and after the surprisingly quick assembly of the tents we went into the city to buy our dinner (chippy) and breakfast for the following morning. To pass the time that afternoon we had a frisbee to throw around but it was soon lost by Brian, our canoeing instructor, who just did not know his own strength.

The weather was sunny in the morning and we were generally lucky over the four days as we had no rain at all. After packing the canoes and travelling a short distance down the road we arrived at the Whitesands where we would be

canoeing for the day. With wet suits and cagoules on we looked a fine bunch Tom and Paul decided the best way to get warm was to run into the sea straight away. It was freezing but the others soon followed! Mr Cowell and Brian went over the safety aspects before we went on the sea as practically all of us had never been in the sea before. The first thing we would have to do when getting into the water was a capsized. Daunted by this, no-one wanted to go first but Paul got out of the way early. The rest of the group eventually volunteered to do the capsizes and the comment that everyone made when climbing back into the canoes was, "God it's cold in there!". The rest of the morning was spent practising the basic strokes and investigating small coves and we all found a good learning experience.

Lunch was gobbled up after a hard morning's work and we were ready and eager to have a go at surfing in our canoes on the relatively small waves in the afternoon. Small waves they may have been but mastering the art of surfing was by no means easy and the capsized practices came into frequent use. Eventually though we all got the hang of it and caught one or two particularly good waves. The evening was filled once more by eating chips on the steps of a monument in the centre of the city and by telling jokes and playing cards till the early hours of the morning.

There was an earlier rise on the third day as we were going on a day trip around the coast of the area. Canoes were dragged or paddled along in many different forms down the small, shallow stream leading to the sea. Jessica led the group and Mr Cowell took us round rougher areas of the sea water which involved some hard paddling. We found a pebbly beach to stop off at lunch and Mr Cowell took great pride and precision in creating a photograph to make it look as if a miniature Justin was standing on Jessica's head. We arrived back at the cliffs of the camp site at mid afternoon and had a go at jetty jumping. This involved being pushed off a fifteen foot high wall into the water below. We were all up for it but a little bit apprehensive. Afterwards we all agreed that the rush we were doing it was great. As it was our final day canoeing we all did a group jump off the jetty into the freezing cold water below. It had been a whole day since we had done our capsizes and the water took our breaths away. A fantastic canoeing trip was capped off by a speed boat trip around the wildlife Ramsay Island. The driver seemed a bit mad and said if we fell in he would not be coming back to pull us out! We saw a lot of wildlife including many varieties of birds and so on.

seals and we also had a good close up look at some of the many caves on the island.

Altogether it was a thoroughly enjoyable holiday and in the future Mr Cowell hopes to receive a grant to make the trip even better!

*Paul Bradley, Y12*

### **Young Enterprise**

This year Young Enterprise was huge success with over forty people expressing interest in taking part. This led to the formation of two companies, ID and Sparkle. Each company sold a selection of interesting products including jewellery, novelty goods and glass paintings (from ID) and roses and picture frames (from Sparkle).

Both teams were invited to the district finals to present the year's work. Each team completed their presentation successfully and competently. This was shown by the judge's comments which complimented each team in turn. ID were fortunate on this occasion and picked up two awards ("Most profit award" and "District runners up") and £125 which was donated to their shareholders.

Neither team could have got anywhere without the help from Mr Young, Miss Brar and their advisers, Steve McManus from Halfords and Richard Warner from Seco Tools. Overall it gave everyone who took part an understanding of how hard the world of business really is.

*Clive Neal and Gemma Collins, Y12*

### **Drama Workshop**

In block week Year 8 were involved in a drama workshop and had a smashing time. In the morning the two classes taking part were split into two and a half of 8S and half of 8N went to the hall extension with a member of the Pilot Theatre company called Lucy to learn about the play of *Lord of The Flies*. We warmed up by writing names with parts of our body and passing claps around the circle. We then had to organise ourselves so that from an aerial view we looked like a shape or a letter and into lines depending on the length of our hair and fingernails and colour of our eyes. We also played a follow my leader game where you had to follow someone without them knowing. When we started on the drama work it

was very different from what we had expected because we thought drama would involve scripts and acting out parts. After a short break we worked with expressions and showing feelings. We were also put in groups and worked with words from the book to make chants and war cries.

The afternoon was based mainly on improvisation and took a lot more brain-power. This was quite a bit harder than the morning as we were not able to understand what information he was trying to give us and he was a bit too technical for our age group. We did a lot more movement which even got us rolling all over the floor. In the second half of the afternoon we sat and watched people copying each other and had to interpret what they were doing. The whole afternoon was quite a challenge which we found fun but also serious and hard-working. The *Lord of the Flies* work was really enjoyable and exciting and we would all like to do it again with another book.

*Sarah Cockman, Katie Walter and Emma Peters, Y8*

## **Y8 Trip To Bristol**

In Block Week, on Friday 13th, on what proved to be a *not* unlucky day, Year 8 of AGS went on a trip to Bristol as part of their science topics this term visiting The Bristol Exploratory (for Chemistry and Physics), and Bristol Zoo (for Biology).

In the Exploratory, we were first given a talk called "Flash, Bang, Wallop!" and it turned out to be just that! A man called Mike gave a very interesting and, ummm... loud talk on chemical reactions and how adding oxygen can speed them up. At the very end he made a rocket out of hydrogen gas and a Pringles packet, which went speeding up into the air, emitting a very loud bang at the end! He also blew bubbles of certain gases, which had different densities. Some floated up into the air and some floated straight down, depending on the density. He burnt some of the bubbles and they burnt with a very strong heat.

After the talk we were allowed to explore the different hands-on exhibits in the exploratory. There was a lot to choose from. You could go on the internet, or freeze your shadow. You could see if you had enough energy by pedalling an exercise bike, to make an electric train go round, or power a television for few seconds.

During this, half of us were taken to the first half of the "Earth In Space" talk. This was given by the same man and was again very interesting. He showed us how one half of the earth is in darkness while the other half is light, at certain times of the year, and how in the North Pole it is always dark in winter and never dark in summer. He also showed the moon's different "phases" and why it looks different to us on earth at different times. He showed this using a torch in a darkened room.

In the second half of the "Earth In Space" talk we were told all about the different planets, their different moons etc.

After this we were told to go on some more exhibits, and we saw the biggest guitar in the world (It's true! You could go inside it!). We also visited the shop and bought some souvenirs of our visit.

Then it was time to get back on the coach and head for the Zoo. When we got there the first thing we did was eat our lunch. After lunch we were put into groups of three and given worksheets to do, finding different animals and plants and writing about them. We saw lots of different animals including a rare Mr German species which feeds mainly on coffee and sandwiches, and lives in the picnic area. Other animals found were snakes, hippopotami, lions, leopards and lots of strange creepy crawlies in Bug World. We also found jellyfish, seals, giraffes, monkeys and flamingoes. We had to find a plant and an animal from different parts of the world. We also saw Wendy the Elephant who had no tusks. We were told to meet at the shop at the end of the afternoon, where we all bought some more things to take home, including yo-yos(!)

On the coach home Mr Slater's jokes were not funny and some of us fell asleep pretty quickly! It was a long but very enjoyable and interesting day out.

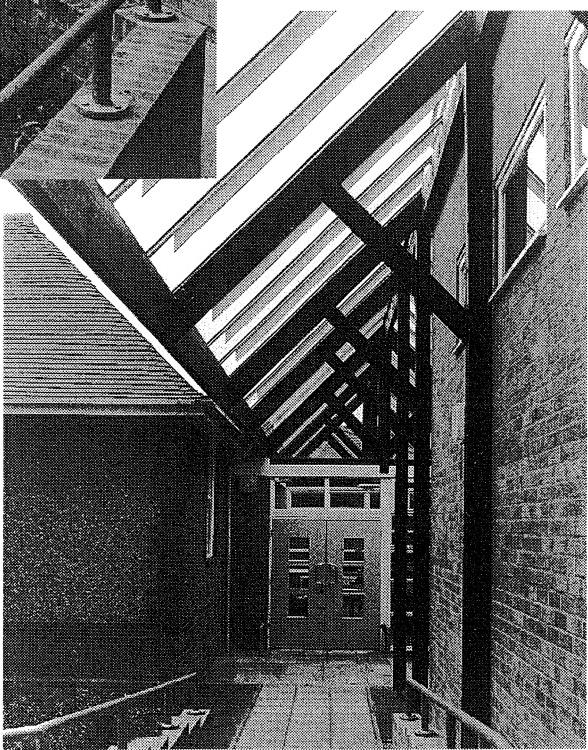
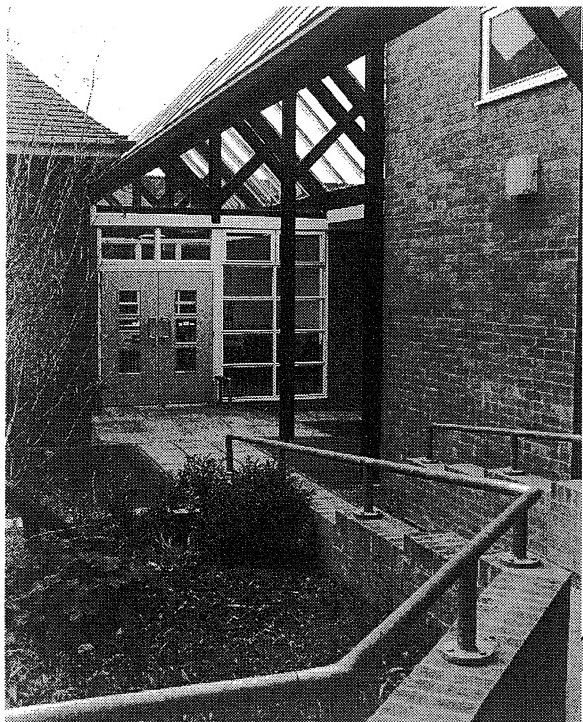
Thanks to all the staff who went: Mr Slater, Mr German, Mrs Preston, Mrs Wells, Mr Layton, Miss Anthony, Dr Wakerley and Mrs Baxter.

*Lorna Shaddick, Y8*

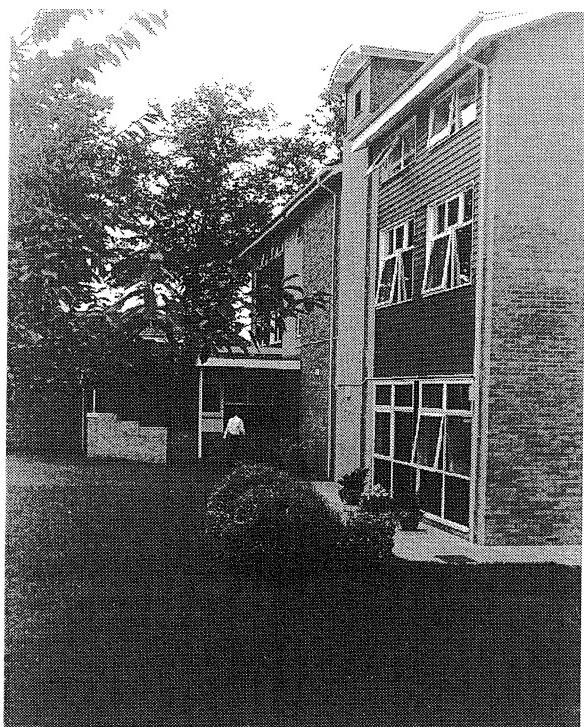
### **Year 8 Block Week Trip To Mary Arden's House**

In Block Week year 8 went on many trips including one to Mary Arden's House. The year was split up into two groups, one went on the Tuesday and one went on the Thursday. When we arrived at Mary Arden's House the group was split in

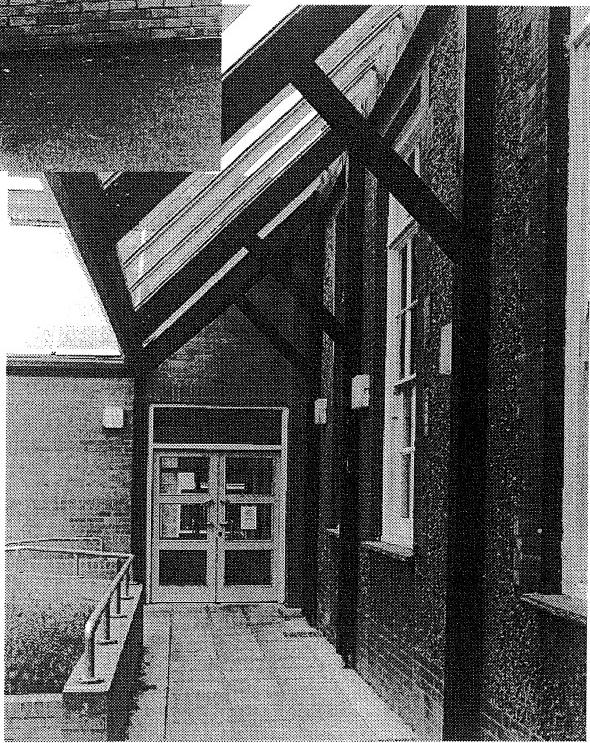
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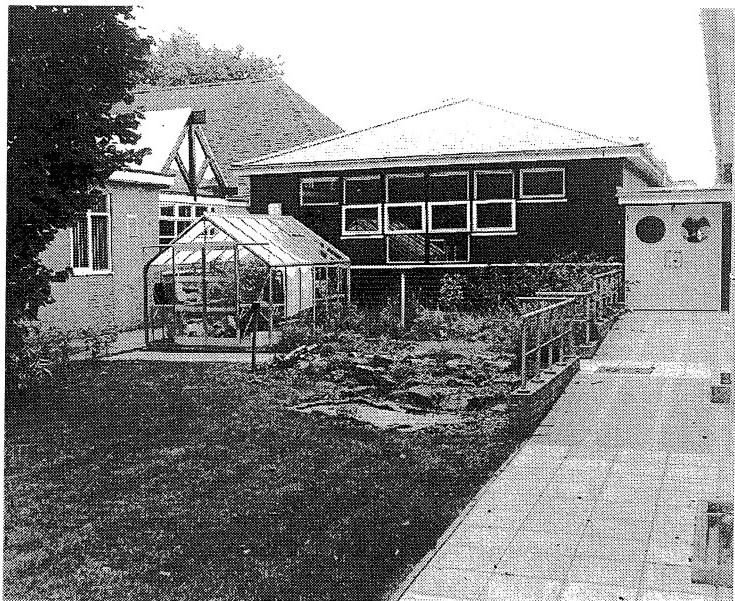
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ound the school...



half, one went for a tour around the house and the other group had a lecture about how people used to live in the Tudor period.

In the lecture we learned about a typical day, what they used to eat and how they prepared food. In the tour around the house we were shown all the different rooms and were told how they used to treat animals, how they were always showing off to neighbours and how they were punished for crimes. After the tour we were given half an hour to fill in some worksheets and look around the grounds, in the cider mill and the blacksmiths.

When we got back to school we were all expected to produce a poster, working in groups, for a display which was put up in the history room.

*Katy Gines, Y8*

### **A Midautumn Day-trip**

When at last I received this long awaited letter, I first did not know what to think. Of course I was delighted to see that I would indeed spend nearly a year in England. Of course I was more than happy to know that I would do it in the beautiful area of Warwickshire. But then I realised that it was the birthplace of Shakespeare - who embodied my dreadful nights of study and the hours spent on examination about his plays. Which would not be so dreadful if people would stop trying to tell me I should like every single play he wrote. By now you have probably realised he is not my favourite author.

So in the bus that would lead us to Mary Arden's house I was in the same state of curiosity and discomfort: would we listen to a clever and knowledgeable - but nonetheless boring - lecture about this nightmare-of a student? Was I completely mad to willingly spend a whole morning in a building full of Shakespearian memories?

My first impression was not reassuring. A suspiciously beautiful old house surrounded by gorgeous buildings - but I resisted the desire of running away, and bravely entered the room where a strangely nice woman led the students....There, in what was the main room where Mary Arden and her family spent most of their time, we were given a vivid description of the way her grandparents lived - explaining not only the life at this time, but also the way English language evolved and became what it is today. As she spoke, the teachers along with the

pupils smiled and laughed, fascinated by the stories she told to illustrate the way these people lived. Every eye was looking at her, every mouth was shut (except of course for those which were open, their owner becoming so involved in the account that they forgot even their body), and apart from the voice of the storyteller - for she was more of a storyteller than a guide - the room was silent.....

Then, feeling slightly more confident - though I had not really got rid of my doubts - I followed the pupils to another room, where we spent some time investigating the skills of the historian: studying wedding acts, trying to find answers to questions.... And for the first time, Shakespeare's name was pronounced. But I had not even the time to startle, that everyone was outside looking for answers. As I wandered around, I met many students asking people questions, reading the commentaries dispatched everywhere in the landhold...in fact enjoying themselves. Not only had they, thanks to what they had just learnt and done, a real interest in their work, but they also seemed to appreciate the freedom that was given to them in investigating the different buildings.

The students had really enjoyed the trip and the workshops - as they had been fascinated with the buildings and the displays. We had learnt so much about this time, the people and the English language that surely they were trying to remember every small bit of it. So that when we all got in the bus that would take us to Alcester Grammar School, the students exchanging their precious bits of information and talking about this wonderful place, I had but one subject to worry about: "Errr, they did not try to make me love Shakespeare, did they?"

*Matthieu Levisse, French Assistant*

## **Food Technology and HE Trip to The Good Food Show**

The Food Technology department took the GCSE and A level pupils to the GFS at the NEC in Birmingham.

The morning was spent walking around the exhibitions with stalls offering free samples! We met many celebrities including Richard Crawley from "Ready, Steady Cook"

In the afternoon we went to see "Ready, Steady Cook" in the celebrity theatre. It was very interesting to see the celebrities in the flesh and the food they could produce in twenty minutes.

Overall the day was very interesting and we learnt a lot about the food industry.

*Felicity Devlin, Y10*

### **The Sewage Works**

It was the 21st of October and I was extremely happy because it was my birthday. There was one problem, my class had to go to the sewage works. The day started off fine with lots of presents for me, but it got worse as soon as we'd arrived there. After being split into two groups the smell kicked in while being shown around. We saw the water being treated and what happens to waste. I was put off my packed lunch!

Back at school we went down to the River Arrow in wellies and did several activities. I really enjoyed the Rivers Day - it's a birthday I'll never forget.

*Charlotte Bird, Sarah Thacker and Sadie Fleming, Y8*

### **German Exchange 1999**

On Saturday 17th April thirty-nine pupils from Years 8,9 and 10 travelled to Germany to exchange with pupils from the Carl Duisberg Gymnasium in Wuppertal. They were looked after by Mr Kopp, Mrs Tingle and Matthieu, our French assistant, who had never in fact visited Germany before. He learnt as much German during the week spent with our partners as anyone else, expertly taught by many of the Year 9 and 10 girls from Alcester.

The week passed off very smoothly indeed. Everyone got on well with their partners and enjoyed themselves. Chris Rees did manage to fall off a bicycle and needed stitches to his right ear, but no other accidents were reported. The visit started off with everyone being thrown into the deep end: a whole Sunday with the German family. After that it got worse, since Monday was spent in school attending lessons. On Tuesday the sun shone and we travelled to Bonn. After some sightseeing we took a boat up the Rhine to a small town called Linz. It was a most pleasant trip. It rained on Wednesday, which did not matter much, since

we visited a very interesting museum at the site where Neanderthal man was found. Afterwards we met quite a number of the German partners at an exciting swimming pool. It was still raining on Thursday, which again did not matter since most of the day was spent at a huge shopping complex near Oberhausen. The good weather returned on Friday and we travelled to Cologne (Köln) where we visited the cathedral and chocolate museum before doing some last minute present shopping. Exhausting Saturdays were spent with the families of our partners before returning to the UK at the crack of dawn on Sunday 25th April.

The German partners visited us from Saturday 5th June until Sunday 13th June. The visit again passed smoothly and everyone who took part seemed to get a lot out of it.

*CPK*

### **Biology River Day**

On the 21st October (Charlotte Bird's 13th birthday) we went on a trip to the River Arrow. It was all going very smoothly until Ros let go of the net we were using to get river life in. We reckoned on Mr German to help us get it back, but by the time we had his attention it was half way down the river so we had to try every possible way. After a lot of frantic running and searching around we found it. But the only way back down was to swing from a tree. So Mr German did, being the brave person he is.

After that Lindsey and I held the net at all times - until we got onto dry land.

*Amy Widdowson and Sarah Coates, Y8*

### **The Lower School Production -*The Silver Sword***

Auditions were held the first week back after the Easter holidays. Everyone who auditioned got a part and rehearsals started the week after. Unfortunately, a few weeks into rehearsals, Mr Johnson, the Director, became ill and was away from school. So instead of cancelling the play, Mrs Green took over. There were a lot of creative differences between Mrs Green and Mr Johnson, so much of the play was changed. The performances were on Thursday, Friday and Saturday the 8th,

9th and 10th of July. The play was about a family, the Balickis, split up during the second world war and their journey to find each other, across Poland and Switzerland. There were a number of songs, directed by Mrs Cowell. It was a moving story and many members of the audience left with tears in their eyes.

*Jamie Turner, Y8*

### **Bristol Zoo and Exploratory Trip**

When we arrived we went to a display at the Exploratory. We were taught about explosions. We were shown how to blow up "Pringles" cans. In the Exploratory there were lots and lots of experiments to do. We also went to see a show about the solar system and how it goes around the sun.

We then went to the zoo where there was a zoo olympics where you had to run faster than a cheetah and hold your breath for as long as you could. We had a project to do; ours was on insects and snakes.

Also in the zoo there was a twilight world where we went to a kitchen which was infested with rats, mice and insects.

Altogether it was a busy and enjoyable day.

*Alastair Stewart and Matt Wright, Y8*

### **River Trip**

On October 21st 1998, 8S and a few of 8N bravely set out on a quest to discover the velocity of the River Arrow. Armed with their wellingtons, clipboards and pens, the group advanced towards the river.

Alcester had just experienced a period of heavy rain, which increased the danger of the mission impossible. The first part of our mission was to find out the width and the depth of the river. We got Mr G, protesting vigorously, to help us with this part.

When this was accomplished we, carefully at first, waded into the murky waters. It turned out that I, as leader of my squad, was the least well equipped. My wellingtons, with the installed computer with internet access, were not higher

than the water level.

This discovery arrived too late and ended up with cold, wet, soggy jeans! This did not stop us however from obtaining the velocity of the River Arrow. Mission accomplished.

*Emily Bloxham, Y8*

## Absolutely Knackered

Not too long after the advertised time on 18th July 1999, a motley crew of scrapers, fiddlers, whistlers and bangers started scraping, fiddling, whistling and banging with an occasional brief glance towards Gwen's stick waving. The resulting noise could be recognised as the overture - a compilation of various Broadway songs - and was just about loud enough to cover the noises of 100 combined sets of nerves jangling as the actors and actresses prepared themselves for their first entry before a completely packed school hall. And sure enough it wasn't long before Mat White was bidding the audience "Wilkommen, bienvenue, welcome" and the assembled multitudes made their way to the stage to join in the fun. After another round of tumultuous applause, everyone left except Jon Morgan who sang (*Don't Put Your Daughter On The Stage Mrs Worthington*), advice that some parents in the audience were surely wishing they had followed. A scene from the society's last production, *Tom Jones*, followed, with exemplary roaring, particularly from David Mutton. Next was *Take Me To The Fair* from *Camelot*, which featured Sarah Jeffery's dress, which was determined not to stay up. A scene from the somewhat bizarre *Cold Comfort Farm* was followed by Oli Hyatt's hilarious rendition of a monologue from *The Merchant Of Venice* and the delightful close harmony of the company singing *Moon River*. Kate Hemming and Anna Pidgeon gave a wonderful performance of *Sous le dôme épais* from *Lakmé* (better known as the Flower Duet from the British Airways advert), then from the sublime to the ridiculous as some of the men danced woefully to Bad Guys from *Bugsy Malone*. This was followed by a raunchy rendition of *Mein Herr* from *Cabaret* by Abbey Wright and the girls, before Zoë Morgan's amusing "Director's Notes". The first half was completed by the massed male chorus performing (singing would not be the right word!)

*Women! Women! Women!* and *There is Nothing Like a Dame*, in which Matt Evans showed us why he wasn't born female.

After all that, the audience might have thought they would be allowed home, but instead they were treated to wine and strawberries and the news that there was a whole lot more to come.

Eventually the audience and orchestra found their way back to their seats and the second half got underway with a stirring medley from *Liberty Beat* and an emotional scene from *Macbeth* performed by James Horn and Polly Lister. The comical *Elegance* was followed by a scene from *First Times* and a specially rewritten version of *If Only I Could....* from *The Wizard of Oz*. There was more from the men in the shape of *Fie On Goodness, Fie!* in which Matt Evans did a wonderful job of making up his lines (in rhyme) as he went along, and Spencer Braithwaite did not such a good job of trying not to give in to hysterics! After this, the tone became more serious with *Sunrise, Sunset* from *Fiddler On The Roof*, but not for long, as this was followed by Monty Python's *Spanish Inquisition* and the audience's attempt at Flanders and Swann's *Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud*. *Boogie Balloo* from *Hypochondria!* was swiftly followed by *Sixteen Going On Seventeen* and the nostalgic *We Said We Wouldn't Look Back*. After a short round of speeches, the evening was finished off with the society's most performed song ever, *One Day More* from *Les Miserables*. And that was that. All that planning, and it was all over. Here's to the next ten years...

If you attended Absolutely Decadent, why not re-live the memories by buying a commemorative brochure or a video from school. If you weren't there, then you'd better buy them anyway to find out what you missed! Photos from the show can be seen on the AB website: <http://www.pbm-uk.freeserve.co.uk/ab/abindex.htm>

*David Last, 1990-97*

## **Chemistry Camp!**

Tinky, Winky, Dipsey, Laa Laa and Po..... have you ever tried changing the colour of a chemical reaction in time to their music ? For four days last July I spent time at Birmingham University carrying out lots of fun experiments like that. Forty Y10 students from all over Britain attended the Chemistry camp and we were kept busy doing experiments that we would not have the opportunity to

do at school. There was problem solving such as : how much carbon dioxide can you get one piece of chalk to create when reacting it in acid? (Half a blue and half a yellow stick creates the most carbon dioxide.) We also tested substances using chemiluminescence.

The camp gave us ideas of some jobs involving chemistry but mostly it showed just what fun Chemistry can be! I can thoroughly recommend the Camp to anyone with the opportunity to go on it in the future. By the end of the week I had made lots of new friends who I am still in touch with by e-mail and traditional snail mail. Also, at the end of the week I had a Liverpool accent, though that soon went. The best thing of the week, of course, was winning a Teletubbies Mug to be forever treasured, for getting the reaction most in time with that awful tune!

*Alison Belfield Y10*

### **Tom Jones**

Our play for the March production was *Tom Jones* by Henry Fielding. The play was loosely based on Tom Jones's (Chris Purchase) search for true love and his "pit stops" on the way. Of these, the first was the ever flirting Molly (Lucy Thomas), then there was Mrs Waters (Sabrina Sacco) and then the formidable Mrs Fitzpatrick (Anna Pigeon) until at last he finds the lovely Sophia (Beth Tash).

The play was notable, among other things, for its two fights. The first was repeated in *Absolutely Decadent*, and became renowned for Beth's faint at the end (how can we fit it into the next production ?). The second was a first for AGS as it involved the use of real swords! This dangerous event was choreographed by Martin Joynes and performed with aplomb by Tim Port and Chris Purchase.

The undoubted star of the show was Chris Purchase who played the title role and combined hilarity with serious moments. Praise should also be given to Jon Statham who somehow managed not to laugh at the line "I would marry you for your grazing alone" and Beth Tash whose grazing was in question. Paul Jaggers played the country squire with great vigour and a great accent whilst Sam Shearn was wisdom personified as the caring Squire Allworthy. Brilliant performances were turned in by everyone and any (slight) mistakes were covered up admirably. The stage crew excelled themselves, producing spine

tingling sound effects in the execution scene as well as superb lighting.

The play was enjoyed by cast, crew and (we hope) audience alike and was a great commercial success. However if we are to learn anything from *Tom Jones* it is that "nothing innocent happens in a bush".

### **The Junior School Production of *The Silver Sword***

It was assembly and Mr Johnson stood up for a notice. It was that time of the year again and he was going to announce what play we were going to do for the junior production: *The Silver Sword*.

Once he had told us what we were going to do, there erupted an excited murmur from the whole of the lower school. Some pupils had read the book and so knew what would be involved but before anything could begin, casting sessions had to be arranged. Competition between people was fierce. A lot of people decided to try out so two audition sessions were held and the turn out for both was very encouraging and the standards were high.

Ranging from Year 7 to Year 9 we met in the Drama Room where Mr Johnson stood waiting to put us to the ultimate challenge!

The task: to divide into small groups and create a few short sketches each one ending in a "freeze frame". This was not easy. Once in our groups we were set loose on the school trying to avoid the cleaners and find somewhere to work! Soon everyone had settled down and was busy exercising imaginations to create scenes. When ready they summoned Mr Johnson and performed their scenes for him to assess.

Before the list was up and the first rehearsal was set, Mr Johnson gave an important message in assembly that would stop the tortuous waiting. There was a stampede at break to see who was who and when the rehearsal was. Everyone was pleasantly surprised at the results: the main parts who were Ruth, Edek, Bronia, Jan, Ivan and Joseph were to be acted out by (in order) Jenny Tugman, Rohan Talbot, Shwetha Nathan, Jamie Turner, Hamish Ferguson and Tom Hyde.

There was a reading through the script that Thursday where everyone got his or her script. There then followed a series of rehearsals in the Drama Room and all was looking well (apart from a few people not knowing their line a-hem!) when the production hit a bump in the road. In fact it was more than a bump it was like

a mountain!

Mr Johnson was ill!

Most people thought it was all over and disappointment hung in the air. However it was back on when Mrs Green agreed to take over the play!

Hooray!

The rehearsals started again and everyone was panicking when the opening night drew closer and closer, especially at the dress rehearsal! People's costumes seriously needed sorting out as they weren't suitable, lines needed to be learnt and Jamie needed to use a TURNIP INSTEAD OF SWEDE!

Rehearsals ran on to the few days that were left before the opening night and all seemed chaotic. We then went on to do three exceedingly good performances (if I don't say so myself!) and after making some people cry, (you know who you are) when it was all over, some people were sorry to see it leave!

*Jenny Tugman & Becci Pearshouse, Y9*

## **Summary Of Examination Results Summer 1999**

### **GCSE Results Achieved by Y11**

Subject	Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	%A*-B	%A*-C
English	60	9	10	29	12	0	0	0	80	100
Eng.Lit	60	10	13	28	6	3	0	0	85	95
Mathematics	60	17	19	18	5	1	0	0	90	98
Biology	60	21	17	13	8	1	0	0	85	98
Chemistry	60	11	20	13	11	5	0	0	73	92
Physics	60	19	20	8	13	0	0	0	78	100
French	51	14	9	15	12	1	0	0	75	98
German	32	8	15	8	1	0	0	0	97	100
History	47	10	11	15	10	1	0	0	77	98
Geography	52	7	12	17	12	4	0	0	69	92
Art	33	1	11	11	8	2	0	0	70	94
Design Technology	23	0	77	4	3	2	0	0	61	78
Food Technology	24	10	11	3	0	0	0	0	100	100

### Systems and Control

	13	0	0	5	6	1	1	0	38	84
Music	20	3	8	1	6	2	0	0	85	90
<b>Totals</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>79.2</b>	<b>95.9</b>

### A Level Results Achieved by Y13

Subjects	Entries	A	B	C	D	E	N	U	%A-E	%A-B
Art	13	2	5	5	1	0	0	0	100	54
Biology	35	13	5	9	6	1	1	0	97	51
Chemistry	32	11	6	8	5	2	0	0	100	53
Physics	26	11	4	9	0	1	1	0	96	58
Economics	23	5	4	7	1	4	1	1	91	39
Eng. Literature	54	7	7	14	17	8	1	0	98	26
French	8	4	3	0	1	0	0	0	100	88
Geography	29	4	3	5	7	6	4	0	86	24
German	6	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	83	33
History	17	4	2	7	3	1	0	0	100	35
Mathematics	37	22	8	4	0	2	1	0	97	81
Further Maths.	9	5	2	1	1	0	0	0	100	78
Music	6	0	1	2	2	1	0	0	100	17
Home Econ.	6	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	100	67
Design Technol.	12	3	1	2	2	4	0	0	100	33
Theatre Studies	9	1	3	1	2	2	0	0	100	44
Psychology	40	7	9	7	8	5	3	1	90	40
Music Technol.	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	50	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>95.6</b>	<b>46.2</b>
General Studies	22	2	4	7	2	3	2	1	82	27
<b>Total including General Studies :</b>										
	<b>386</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>94.8</b>	<b>45.1</b>

### AS Results Achieved by Y13

Subjects	Entries	A	B	C	D	E	N	U	%A-E	%A-B
Geography	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	100	0
Mathematics	11	1	0	5	0	1	1	3	64	9
Computer Studs.	21	0	0	4	7	5	4	1	76	0
Statistics	9	3	3	1	1	1	0	0	100	67
Geology	8	0	1	2	3	2	0	0	100	13

### AS Results Achieved by Y13 (continued)

Subjects	Entries	A	B	C	D	E	N	U	% A-E	% A-B
History	12	1	2	4	2	2	1	0	92	25
Business Studs.	6	0	1	2	3	0	0	0	100	17
Electronics	4	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	100	25
English	5	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	100	40
Biology	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	100	0
Critcl. Thinking	20	2	1	6	8	1	1	1	90	15
Music	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	100	0
Music Technol.	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	100	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>88.6</b>	<b>18.1</b>

### Results Achieved by Year 13 for Vocational Qualifications (GNVQ)

GNVQ Advanced	Entries	Distinction	Merit	Pass
Business	8	4	4	-
Art & Design	3	2	1	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-</b>

### Destinations of 1999 Leavers

The list below gives all the details as we know them at the time of going to press. All students are going to degree courses at universities unless otherwise indicated.

**Eleanor Appleby** - in employment, applying for university entry in 2000; **David Attwood** - Information Technology at Glamorgan; **Steven Barrett** - English at Magdalen College, Oxford; **Angela Bashford** - employment; **Thomas Benjamin** - Marketing at Middlesex; **Joanna Bennett** - year out in Australia, entry to university in 2000; **Joanna Bentley** - Business Studies at Westminster; **Jeniene Boots** - Sport and Exercise Science at Sheffield Hallam; **Mhairiangela Bottone** - Media HND at Central England; **James Bowley** - year out entry to university in 2000; **Jennifer Bridger** - Natural Environmental Science at Sheffield; **Sadie Brown** - Sociology at Sheffield; **Colin Buckle** - Civil Engineering at Loughborough; **Lucy Buxton** - Art and Design Foundation at Leamington College; **Katy Carter** - English Studies at Exeter; **Jonathan Chiffins** - Social Policy and Criminology at Portsmouth (2000 entry); **James Cooke** - HND in English at Bath Spa College; **Lisa Cronin** Business and Quality Management at Nottingham Trent; **Ian Cutler** - Geology at Birmingham; **Robert Dagger** - Politics with International Relations at Lancaster; **Michelle Dallow** - Business Administration at Bath; **Frances Dance** - Economics at Central England; **Simon Danes** - employment in Landscape Gardening; **Helen Davey** - Music at The Welsh

College of Music and Drama; **Abigail Davies** - Occupational Therapy at Liverpool; **Rhianon Davies** - Linguistics at East Anglia; **Lisa Daw** - Pharmacy at Cardiff; **Charlotte Dencer** - English at Bristol; **Stephen Dunn** - Economics at East Anglia; **Thomas Edkins** - GNVQ-HNC Engineering Course and Engineering Apprenticeship at Mid-Warwickshire College and employment with Turbine Blading Ltd; **Hannah Elwell** - year out, entry to university in 2000; **Elizabeth Evans** - Organisation Studies at Lancaster; **Zoë Evans** - Food Science at Leeds; **Emma Fahey** - deferred university entry; **Thomas Futers** - employment in the catering industry; **Joanne Gill** - History at Sheffield; **Stuart Goddard** - Geography at Plymouth; **James Goodman** - Business Studies at Sheffield Hallam; **William Green** - year out in America, entry to university in 2000; **Samuel Grinstead** - Mechanical Engineering at Sheffield; **Colette Haden** - Medicine at Leeds; **Amy Hall** - English Literature at Swansea; **Beth Harding** - Food and Consumer Studies at Sheffield Hallam; **Kirsten Harris** - year out in Zimbabwe, followed by entry to university in 2000; **Zowie Hay** - Politics and International Relations at Lancaster; **Jonathan Higgs** - Electronics and Electronic Engineering at Surrey; **Matthew Hodges** - Business Economics at Liverpool; **Natalie Horsfield** - Environmental and Resource Management at Hull; **Joe Houghton** - Fine art Foundation at Mid-Warwickshire College; **Sarah Insoll** - Physics with Medical Physics at Nottingham; **Jeffrey Jones** - Mathematics at Warwick; **Gary Joynes** - Accounting and Finance at East Anglia; **Rebecca Kendry** - Primary Education at Nene University College, Northampton; **Susie Kenyon** - year out followed by entry to university in 2000; **Rebecca Key** - Stage Management at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama; **Stewart Kingscott** - English and Drama at Bretton Hall College, University of Leeds; **Chris Knight** - Business Enterprise at Northampton; **Nikola Lamburn** - Psychology at Liverpool; **Alan Law** - English Literature and Theatre Studies at Bretton Hall College, University of Leeds; **Dominic Lawler** - 'A' levels at Stratford College; **John Lunau** - Mathematics and Computing at Loughborough; **Tom Luxton** - Aeronautical Engineering at Sheffield; **Hana Marshall** - Medicine at Leicester; **Lynsey McFarlane** - Physical Education with Education at Sheffield Hallam; **Katy MacIntosh** - HND Business Studies at Sheffield Hallam; **Stephen McLaren** - year out in employment in the engineering industry, followed by entry to Churchill College Cambridge, to read Engineering in 2000; **Christopher McVeigh** - Mechanical Engineering at Loughborough; **Nicholas Mellor** - Mechanical Engineering at Imperial; **Anne Miles** Psychology at Plymouth; **Janine Mitchell** - Business Management at Nottingham Trent; **Thomas Moffat** - seeking employment in the business sector; **Rebecca Murphy** - Languages for Business at Oxford Brookes; **Vaishali Nathan** - Medicine at St George's Hospital Medical School; **David Newton** - Business Information Technology at Bournemouth; **Jason O'Korafor** - HND in Business Administration at Greenwich; **Thomas Oldham** - in employment, pending an application to the RAF; **Rachel Pask** - Biochemistry at Bath; **James Pearson** - Marine Biology at Portsmouth; **Rico Pecho** - Music and Media Studies at University College, Chichester; **Anna Pidgeon** - year out travelling before university entry in 2000; **John Platt** - year out working in photography and a gardening business; **Corrado Potecher** - Accounting at Portsmouth; **Angeline Poland** - Psychology at Leicester;

**Kelly Poole** - European Studies with Italian at Plymouth; **Katie Popplewell** - Equine Science at Wye College, University of London; **Helen Poulton** - Drama and English at Wolverhampton; **Alan Powell**; Economics and Geography at Portsmouth; **Emma Preston** - Medicine at Bristol; **Abbi Price** - Pharmacology at Bath; **Stephen Prickett** - Veterinary Medicine at The Royal Veterinary College; **Thomas Radburn** - apprenticeship with Cotswold Ceramics; **David Rawlings** - re-sitting A levels; **Ciara Redman** - re-sitting A levels at MWCFE; **Jonathan Roberts** - Biology at Southampton; **Rupert Roden** - Economics at Portsmouth; **Caroline Rolfe** - year out then entry to university in 2000; **John Rose** - employment in the car industry; **Holly Rowlatt** - Architecture at Nottingham; **Peter Royston** - management trainee with RAW; **Sian Sansum** - Midwifery at Huddersfield; **Kate Saunders** - Physical Education (Teaching) at University College, Worcester; **Kate Sergeant** - Biological Sciences at Newcastle; **Sam Shearn** - Physics at Nottingham; **Christopher Shelswell** - travel in Australia then entry to university in 2000; **Hannah Shrimpton** - Estate Management at Central England; **Simone Silcock** - Geology and Geography at Birmingham; **Iain Slade** Ocean Science at Plymouth; **Matthew Smith** - re-sitting A levels at SWCFE; **Philip Smith** - Business Studies at Staffordshire; **Warren Soni** - Optometry at Aston; **Eva Sozanska** - Business at De Montfort; **Gemma Stacey** - Infant Teaching with Music, at Warwick; **Britt Steed** - Sociological Studies and Psychology at Cheltenham and Gloucester College of HE; **Rachael Stevens** - Criminology and Law at Lincolnshire and Humberside; **Hayley Stringer** - Pharmacy at Bath; **Rachel Sturdey** - Geography at Exeter; **Trudy Sutton** - employment with Sitel, then world travel; **Sean Sweeney** - Furniture and Product Design at Nottingham Trent; **Roger Talbot** - Art Foundation at MWCFE; **Penny Taylor** - Psychology at Plymouth in 2000, having taken a year out at Catherston Stud to gain BHS qualifications; **Kathryn Thompson** - year out followed by university entry in 2000; **James Thomson** - Chemistry at St Catherine's College, Oxford; **Sean Tilley** - studying for A levels at home then re-applying for university entry in 2000; **Angharad Timms** - Public Relations and Media Studies at the University College of St Mark and St John; **James Turner** - employment with HSBC Bank; **Caroline Turner** - employment while waiting to apply for an equine-related course; **Emily Villis** - French and Mathematics at Exeter; **Elizabeth Wakeling** - year out then entry to Bristol in 2000 to read French and History of Art; **Alex Weatherall** - Law at Manchester; **Tia Wightman** - Computer Visualisation and Animation at Bournemouth; **Samuel Wilkes** - Computing at Plymouth; **Jonathan Williams** - year out at Sitel, then entry to university in 2000 to read Geography and Environmental Studies; **Abbey Wright** - English at Oriel College, Oxford; **Aleksander Wyspianski** - Politics and Eastern European Studies at The School of Slavonic and Eastern European Studies, University of London.

## Awards To Students on Awards Evening, January 1999

**The Spencer Cup** for the best A level results : Elizabeth Faulkner  
Also gaining high A level results (over 30 points) : Emma Blackman,  
Daniel Carrivick, Amanda Croft, Alana Coliis, Rachel Foster, Sarah Foster,  
Jennifer Gladstone, Kate Hemming, Ian Hickman, Katy Lloyd, James Long,  
Stephen Mutton, Catherine Neville, Samantha Passey, Joanne Popplewell, Jessica Rees,  
Rachel Steele, Natalie Swinbourne . Jennifer Gladstone was awarded a prize for the best  
HEFT results in the country.

**The Bell Cup** for best Mathematics performance : Katy Lloyd  
**The Laurie Brain Cup** for best English Literature performance : Kathryn Pozzi  
**The Sheppard Award** for best Humanities performance : Rachel Foster  
**Award for best Science Performance** : Ben Dickson  
**The Allen Award** for best Modern Language performance : Kate Hemming

### Year 13 Service Awards

(voted by the students with staff support) for :

Sport	:	James Bowler
Charity	:	Mary Beech
Leadership	:	Stephen Mutton
People	:	John Alexander
Music	:	Adam Jukes
Sixth Form	:	Amanda Croft
Whole School	:	Duncan Thomas
Drama	:	Corinne Averiss

### Year 11 Awards

**The Mason Cup** for the best GCSE results : Charlotte Joyce (eleven A grades with nine A\*)  
Also gaining high results (average grade A or better) : Thomas Billyard, Ian Bryenton,  
Hannah Cunningham, Judith Hill, Louisa Park, Joan Rees, Rebecca Shearn,  
Jonathan Statham, Lucy Tugwell, Laura Wells, Sara Wychrij

### Year 11 Service Awards for :

Sport	:	Alexis Carter
Leadership	:	Sara Wychrij
Music	:	Lucy Tugwell
Drama	:	Jonathan Statham

## Sports Day Results, July 1999

A new record is denoted by \*

### **Junior Boys**

100m (1)	1 B.Falkner (S)	2 W. Senior (W)	3 M. Watts (?)
100m (2)	1 M. Ward (S)	2 S. Prankard (S)	3 S. Hunt (N)
200m	1 J. Baty (S)	2 K. Buck (N)	3 R. Yapp (W)
400m	1 K. Buck (N)	2 S. Hunt (N)	3 J. Moffat (W)
800m	1 S. Ballard (N)	2 S. Haskins (S)	3 S. Nock (S)
1500m	1 J. Duffin (N)	2 S. Nock (S)	3 W. Marshall (N)
4X100 "A"Race	1 Spencer*	2 Newport	3 Wells
4X100 "B"Race	1 Wells	2 Spencer	3 Newport
High Jump	1 J. Baty (S)	2 M. Ward (S)	3 D. Bennington (N)
Long Jump	1 H. Ferguson (W)	2 K. Buck (N)	3 R. Yapp (W)
Shot	1 J. Stanley (W)	2 J. Anton (S)	3 N. Claxton (N)
Discus	1 M. Ward (S)	2 A. Grayson (W)	3 J. Duffin (N)
Javelin	1 S. Hunt (N)*	2 N. Claxton (N)	3 T. Hyde (W)
Cricket Ball	1 J. Moffat (W)*	2 R. Kirby (N)	3 B. Turner (S)
Hurdles	1 H. Ferguson (W)	2 J. O'Donaghue (S)	3 D. Palmer (N)

### **Junior Girls**

100m (1)	1 K. Newman (W)	2 A. Price (S)	3 E. Tyler (W)
100m (2)	1 C. Pickett (W)	2 K. Melhuish (W)	3 K. Weatherall (N)
200m	1 H. Bladon (S)	2 C. Conroy (W)	3 A. Attridge (N)
300m	1 C. Conroy (W)	2 S. Smith (N)	3 S. Morris (W)
800m	1 C. Stock (N)	2 E. Tyler (W)	3 S. Bickley (W)
1500m	1 J. Johnson (W)	2 K. Stock (N)	3 L. Shaddock (S)
4X100 "A"Race	1 Wells	2 Newport	3 Spencer
4X100 "B" Race	1 Spencer	2 Wells	3 Newport
High Jump	1 J. Benton-Evans (N)	2 S. Kibblewhite (S)	3 S. Morris (W)
Long Jump	1 C. Miller (W)	2 J. Peace (W)	3 A. Price (S)
Shot	1 J. Harmer (W)	2 S. Kibblewhite (S)	3 A. Daffley (S)
Discus	1 H. Bladon (S)	2 H. Allen (W)	3 C. Bird (S)
Javelin	1 L. Willoughby (N)	2 A. Daffley (S)	3 L. Lewis (W)
Rounders Ball	1 L. Willoughby (N)*	2 H. Bladon (S)	3 E. Bloxham (S)
Hurdles	1 J. Johnson (W)	2 J. Benton-Evans (N)	3 J. Houghton (S)

### **Inter Boys**

100m (3)	1 T. Snowdon (W)	2 B. Beeson (N)	3 P. Tansey (W)
100m (4)	1 J. Bacon (S)	2 C. Jolliffe (N)	3 N. Evans (N)
200m	1 J. Bacon (S)	2 D. Ireland (S)	3 M. Halliday (W)
400m	1 B. Beeson (N)	2 M. Halliday (W)	3 D. White (N)
800m	1 C. Rees (N)	2 D. Ireland (S)	3 D. White (N)
1500 m	1 C. Rees (N)	2 S. Brisley (S)	3 W. Nock (N)

4X100 "A"Race	1	Spencer	2	Wells	3	Newport
4X100 "B" Race	1	Newport	2	Spencer	3	Wells
High Jump	1	A. Collins (S)	2	T. Snowdon (W)	3	S. Brisley (S)
Long Jump	1	A. Collins (S)	2	O. Furlow (W)	3	P. Roberts (S)
Shot	1	J. Richardson (N)	2	M. Halliday (W)	3	J. Baty (S)
Discus	1	D. White (W)	2	J. Bacon (S)	3	T. Madris (W)
Javelin	1	R. Ireland (S)	2	J. Baty (S)	3	C. Harris (W)
Hurdles	1	A. Collins (S)	2	C. Jolliffe (N)	3	C. Harris (W)

### Inter Girls

100m (3)	1	B. Pearhouse (N)	2	S. Clarke (N)	3	S. Tarray (S)
100m (4)	1	A. Collins (S)	2	K. Salt-Bush (W)	3	J. Shiels (S)
200m	1	A. Collins (S)	2	D. Robbins (W)	3	R. Bentley (W)
300m	1	R. Bentley (W)	2	J. Tugman (S)	3	A. Tash (N)
800m	1	A. Vater (S)	2	B. Edwards (S)	3	M. Hare (N)
1500m	1	D. Robbins (W)	2	A. Vater (S)	3	K. Salt-Bush (W)
4X100 "A"Race	1	Spencer	2	Wells	3	Newport
4X100 "B" Race	1	Spencer	2	Wells	3	Newport
High Jump	1	A. Vater (S)	2	K. Salt-Bush (W)	3	L. Holdbrook (W)
Long Jump	1	A. Collins (S)	2	C. Foster (W)	3	M. Coll (W)
Shot	1	C. Archer (S)	2	L. Ellison (N)	3	M. Richards (N)
Discus	1	C. Archer (S)	2	M. Richards (N)	3	B. Edwards (S)
Javelin	1	J. Tugman (S)	2	B. Elliot (W)	3	J. Green (N)
Hurdles	1	L. Holdbrook (W)	2	B. Edwards (S)	3	

### Senior Boys

100m	1	G. Barber (S)	2	A. Lea (N)	3	J. Driver (N)
200m	1	C. Dean (N)	2	A. Lea (N)	3	P. Davis (S)
400m	1	B. Munns (S)	2	J. Driver (N)	3	A. Haffner (W)
800m	1	G. Joynes (W)	2	P. Davis (S)	3	A. Haffner (W)
1500m	1	C. Valentine (W)	2	G. Joynes (W)	3	L. Mason (N)
4X100 "A"Race	1	Spencer	2	Newport	3	Wells
Hurdles	1	J. O'Korafor (W)	2	G. Jones (N)	3	T. Port (S)
High Jump	1	G. Averis (S)	2	D. Large (S)	3	M. Hill (W)
Long Jump	1	R. Auchoybur (N)	2	C. Mosieri (S)	3	M. Joynes (W)
Shot	1	P. Jaggers (N)	2	B. Maund (S)	3	C. Spencer (N)
Discus	1	A. Handy (S)	2	A. Hafner (W)	3	P. Jaggers (N)
Javelin	1	C. Mosieri (S)	2	P. Capron (W)	3	J. Driver (N)

### Senior Girls

100m	1	A. Carter (S)	2	M. Carter (W)	3	C. Joyce (N)
200m	1	A. Carter (S)	2	C. Joyce (N)	3	S. Nicholls (S)
300m	1	M. Carter (W)	2	G. Collins (S)	3	S. Nicholls (S)
800m	1	N. Susnick (W)	2	T. Faulkner (W)	3	P. Prankard (S)
4X100 "A"Race	1	Spencer	2	Newport	3	Wells

High Jump	1 G. Collins (S)	2 H. Grinsted (N))	3 B. Hyatt (N)
Shot	1 L. Wilson (N)	2 L. McFarlane (N)	3 T. Susnik (W)
Discus	1 L. Wilson (N)	2 T. Susnik (W)	3 A. Pratled (N)
Javelin	1 T. Cauvin (W)	2 E. Wells (N)	3 L. James (S)

### Overall Result Summary for Sports Day

Victor Ludorum - Junior Boys	Matthew Ward		
Victrix Ludorum - Junior Girls	Hannah Bladon		
Victor Ludorum - Inter Boys	Adam Collins		
Victrix Ludorum - Inter Girls	Amy Collins		
Victor Ludorum - Senior Boys	Justin Driver		
Victrix Ludorum - Senior Girls	Alexis Carter		
Girls' Cup	Wells	Spencer	Newport
Boys' Cup	Spencer	Newport	Wells
Overall Shield	Spencer	Wells	Newport

## Games Results 1998-99

### Inter House Trophy (Based on the whole year's activities)

1st Spencer, 2nd Newport, Wells

#### Athletics

The Cross Country teams performed very well in the County Championships in February 1999. There was an outstanding win here for Sarah Potter (Year 7), who won a race of ten minutes duration by almost two minutes. Her name is likely to crop up in regularly in future editions of *The Record*.

County Team Results: Senior Boys, 4th team; Inter Boys, "A" team 2nd, "B" team 5th; Junior Boys, "A" team 4th, "B" team 8th, "C" team 9th; Minor Boys; "A" team 2nd, "B" team 7th; Minor Girls; 3rd team

Cricket		P	W	D	Captains
First	XI	4	1		Sam Grinsted, Richard Pozzi
2nd	XI	2			Tom Skinner
Y10	XI	2			Ian German
Y9	XI	5	1		Iain Preston
Y8	XI	3	1		Will Bellfield
Y7	XI	8	3		Richard Martin

The Year 7 team retained the Exhall and Wixford cricket trophy - won by AGS for six consecutive years now - which is part of an Alcester and Studley Tournament

Hockey		P	W	D	Captain(s)
First	XI	12	5	4	Jenine Boots
U16	XI	5	3		Mary Richards
U15	XI	7	2	2	Becky Edwards
U14	XI	8	2	2	Amy Robbins
U13	XI	7	3	3	various
U12	XI	4	1		various
Mixed	XI	4	1		Jenine Boots

Senior colours were awarded to : Charlotte Denser, Kate Sergeant, Colette Haden, Sadie Brown, Liz Wakeling, James Turner, Ian Cutler. The U14XI came third in the South Warwickshire tournament.

Netball		P	W	D	Captain(s)
1st	VII	7	3	4	Lynsey McFarlane
U16	VII	2	1		various
U15	VII	8	6	2	various
U14	VII	9	6		various
U13	VII	8	5	3	various
U12	VIIA	6	4		various
U12	VIIB	3			various

Senior colours were awarded to: Lynsey McFarlane, Hannah Marshall, Colette Haden, Ria Bentley, Mandy Howe.

The U18 VII achieved their best result ever in the Warwickshire Tournament and the U15 VII were equal first - losing on goal difference; they came third in the Alcester Police Tournament. The U13 VII were third in the Warwickshire Tournament and winners of the Alcester Police Tournament, while the U12 VII reached the quarter final of the Warwickshire Tournament. Ria Bentley and Mandy Howe were selected for the U16 County squad

Rounders		P	W	D	Captain(s)
6th	IX	2	2		Tash Susnick
U16	IX	2	1		Lucy Thomas
U15	IX	5	4		Kate Hatton
U14	IX	4	1		Natalie White
U13	IX	6	5		Lisa Willoughby, Katharine Stock
U12	IX	5	3		Hannah Bladon

The school came second in a tournament for schools from Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire at Chipping Camden. Second in section at this tournament

<b>Tennis (Girls)</b>		<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>Captain(s)</b>
1st	VI	6	3	0	various
U15	VI	9	6	2	various
U14	VI	4	3	0	various
U13	VI	6	4	0	Katie Walter

Junior colours were awarded to: Holly Wilkinson, Becky Elliott, Katie Walter, Phil Carrivick, Shea Hunt, Chris Campbell and Paul Roberts.

Senior colours were awarded to: Laura Wilson, Jessica Taylor and Charlotte Joyce.

<b>Tennis (Boys)</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>
	7	3	

<b>AGS Tennis Tournament</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Runner-up</b>
Mens Open Championship	Jim Richardson	David Hawkes
Ladies Open Championship	Laura Wilson	Jessica Taylor
Junior Boys Championship	Phil Carrivick	Neil Claxton
Junior Girls Championship	Holly Wilkinson	Katie Walter
Junior Boys' Doubles	Shea Hunt, Chris Campbell	Phil Carrivick Rob Hewitt
Junior Girls' Doubles	Holly Wilkinson, Becky Elliott	Katie Walter, Katie Gines
Junior Mixed Doubles	Holly Wilkinson, Paul Roberts	Peter Felton, Becky Elliott

<b>Rugby</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>Captain(s)</b>
1st XV	12	3		Sam Grinsted
Y11 XV	1			Jon Wells
Y10 XV	2			David White
Y9 XV	8	1		Tom Hartley
Y8 XV	8	5		Andy Hill
Y7 XV	9	2	1	Chris Hemming

The most notable features of the year were, at senior level, the continued enthusiasm of Mr Toseland and the first XV in the face of some heavy defeats. The willingness of a few key players to work in their own time to improve fitness should give a much stronger team in the next school year. At junior level the Year 8 Rugby squad reached the final of the South/mid Warwickshire Cup. Having beaten Aylesford and Southam schools in earlier stages, they were defeated by an outstanding team from KES in the final. It was interesting to see how their standard of play and interest soared during their cup run. Their fine play bodes well for the future.

Soccer		P	W	D	Captain(s)
1st	XI	8	3	2	Sean Tilley
2nd	XI	7	3	3	Tim Port
Y11	XI	4	1	1	Tom Coates
Y10	XI	5	2		Dick Ireland
Y9	XI	3	3		Dan Ireland
Y8	XI	3	1		Shea Hunt
Y7	XI	3	1	1	Ben Williams
Y7(B)	XI	2	1	1	

The highlight of the Soccer year was the Year 7 5-a-side team reaching the Midland finals of a national 5-a-side tournament. In the South Warwickshire section, they won all their games bringing them to the Warwickshire Championship - where again they prevailed. The Midlands finals, at Aston Villa Leisure Centre, saw them reach the National final. A close game led to the squad, although being defeated, being able to lay claim to being the second best team in the Midlands! The squad members were Chris Hemming, Steve Nock, Seb Aburto, Ben Falconer, Joe Donaghue, Adam Shaw, Ben Williams (Captain)

## Old Scholars' News

### Degree Results 1999

*All students are from the cohort of 1989-96, unless otherwise stated.*

**Andrew Smith**, (1993-95), BSc 2.1 in Manufacturing Systems Engineering at Coventry; **Alison Blades**, (1994-96), BMus 2.1 at Cardiff, going on to Law Conversion course at Birmingham; **Emma Huckell**, BA 2.2 in Geography at London QMW, going on to an MA in Historical Geography; **Kara Chisholm** (1988-95), BA 2.1 in German and Business at Keel, going into employment with Marconi; **Jodi Burton** (1992-96), BSc Class 1 in Pharmacology at King's London; **Zoë Morgan**, BSc 2.2 in Biology at Cardiff, going on to RAF Officer Training; **Joanne Snoswell** (1988-95) BSc Class 2.1 in Mathematics at Swansea, going on to RAF Officer Training; **Joe Abbott**, (1987-94), BM,BS at Nottingham; **Sally Hill** (1988-93), BM,BS at Nottingham; **Vicki Parish** (1992-94), BM,BS at Nottingham; **Kate Snoswell** (1987-94), BM,BS with honours, at Nottingham; (all the BM,BS gradates are doing pre-registration training as Junior House officers); **Christopher Deeks**. (1988-95), M.Math 2.1 at London QMW, going on to employment with J. Sainsbury (Systems); **Paul Hickman**, (1988-95), MSc 2.1 in Chemistry at London Imperial, job hunting in the financial services sector; **Elizabeth White**, (1988-95) M.Math 2.2 at Bath; **James Murnieks**, (1994-96), BSc 2.1 in Civil Engineering at Manchester; **Natalie Dean**, BA 2.1 in Geography at Nottingham, going on to an MSc in Criminology, by research; **Alison Page**, (1994-96), BA 2.1 at Portsmouth, going on to an MSc in Economic Geography; **Martin Johnson**, (1993-95), BSc 2.1 in Environmental Science at UEA, now working as a Website designer in Norwich; **Jessica Sproxton**, (1986-93), BA 2.1 in Philosophy and French at Sussex; **Alexandra Ellsom**,

BA 2.1 in French and Spanish at Hull; **Dmitri Wychrij**, (1993-95), BA 2.1 in Geography at Leeds; **Victoria Fern**, BA 2.2 in English at Loughborough; **James Hale**, (1992-94), BA 2.1 in Music and Popular Music at Liverpool; **Christopher Beach**, (1994-96), BSc 3 in Theoretical Physics at York; **Karla Johnsey**, (1994-96), BSc 2.1 in Physiology at Bristol; **Matthew Gwynn**, (1988-95), 2.2 in Business at Nottingham Trent; **Steven Perks**, (1988-95), BA 2.2 in Business; **Claire Bowler**, (1994-96), BA in Geography and Environmental Management at West of England; **Joanne Clark**, (1988-95), BA 2.2 in Art and Psychology at Derby, now job hunting; **Stephanie Newman**, (1992-94), BA 2.2 in Fine Art at UCL

### **Other News of Old Scholars**

Gail Kenton (1988-90) is to take an MPhil in Environmental Archaeology at Cambridge

### **Mr P. J. Holmes**

Phil Holmes was Head of PE from 1967 to 1975 and returned, after appointment to a senior post at Stratford High School and early retirement, several times to help us out with PE.

He was much loved by all who worked with him, and his wide-ranging talents in music and drama, apart from PE, enabled him to give a great deal to the school. He organised the school's first ski-ing trip. to Austria, in 1969, and regularly contributed to musical events of all kinds, including playing the trombone in the school's jazz band in 1999.

We enjoyed having him here and were shocked by his untimely death in September 1999. He will be remembered warmly.

*A.W.Shearn*

Here ends *The Record* No. 165

